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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 001796

SIPDIS

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/07/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI: DREAD WILME KILLED; HNP MORE ACTIVE

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Douglas M. Griffiths for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) SUMMARY. MINUSTAH troops reportedly killed wanted gang leader Dread Wilme and an unspecified number of his associates in an operation on July 6. In addition, over the past two weeks, authorities have made numerous important arrests and killed several big name bandits in Port-au-Prince. While it remains unclear whether these actions represent a settling of accounts by newly appointed Judicial Police Director General Michael Lucius or a genuine effort at neutralizing criminal elements, it at least shows a will to act on the part of the HNP. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) In the morning of July 6, MINUSTAH launched an operation into the Bois Neuf area of Cite Soleil, reportedly killing gang leader Dread Wilme and an unspecified number of his associates. While this is important progress, it is not the massive operation that was initially planned and does not represent the establishment of a permanent MINUSTAH presence in the area. This will temporarily knock the gangs off their feet, but any number of gang leaders can rise to fill the vacuum left by Wilme's death. MINUSTAH needs to keep up the pressure with continuous small and medium sized operations. The Peruvian troops took the lead on this assault, proving their reputation as fearless fighters.

HNP and MINUSTAH More Active ---

13. (C) Between June 22 and June 25, the HNP arrested six of its own officers accused of involvement in kidnapping, and also killed Emmanuel Coriolan (aka Dom Laj) after he allegedly resisted arrest. The HNP also captured a man named Jerry Narcis attempting to use the credit card of a kidnap victim, and he is reportedly cooperating with authorities. On June 29, as part of a raid into Bel-Aire, Brazilian troops arrested 13 Haitians, killed six gang members, and inadvertently found and freed a kidnapped Haitian Red Cross employee. Bel-Aire boss Toutou narrowly avoided capture during this raid, after being surrounded by Brazilians. In a separate operation, Brazilian troops freed the assistant director of the National Port Authority. The Brazilians are now patrolling Bel-Aire on a daily basis and are receiving tips from Haitians, having recovered some caches of equipment (radios, phones, ammunition) and drugs (cocaine). In a July 6 raid, the HNP and Brazilians freed two kidnapping victims, acting on tips from local residents.

Militant Lavalas Wing Feeling Heat ---

14. (C) Over the weekend of July 2-3, The HNP arrested gang leader Lucien Fabien (aka Boeuf), a former Police Commissar previously arrested in connection with a massacre in Carrefour Feuilles in 1999. Never tried, he was subsequently implicated in drug trafficking and was fired from the HNP on April 27, 2004. The HNP also arrested Gabriel Excellent, a member of the Rene Civil OP Lavalas Group, in Port-au-Prince. On July 2, Dominican authorities captured Arnel Belizaire, an ex-FAd'H, former Lavalas employee, and recent prison escapee. The Dominicans expelled Belizaire and transferred him to HNP authorities on July 3.

15. (C) Reports indicate that a top lieutenant in the Evens gang also died as a result of an HNP operation over the weekend. Joint MINUSTAH/HNP operations in the Tokyo neighborhood of Cite Soleil produced 11 arrests of suspected kidnappers in the La Plaine area.

16. (C) COMMENT. This activity has occurred following Michael Lucius' ascension to Director General of the Judicial Police Unit, and he has vocally promoted these successes in radio interviews. It is not clear whether these arrests are all for cause or more for effect. Sources have told Emboffs that they view Lucius as the "only man who can do the job now." However, Lucius' reputation is tainted by alleged involvement in narco-trafficking, and some sources have told us that some of the arrests may be the result of Lucius settling scores. END COMMENT.
GRIFFITHS